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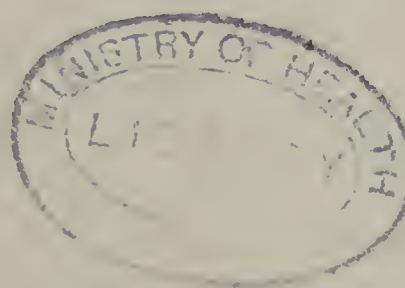
STONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1952



STONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1952.

25th September, 1953

The Chairman and Members of the Stone Rural District Council.

In presenting the report for the year 1952, it is gratifying to report no serious epidemics or increase in morbidity for the district.

The birth rate is up, and the excess of births over deaths gives an increase in the population.

The task of providing houses for the many applicants, both from our own area and from those desirous of living in the Stone Rural District is proceeding with as high an impetus as is possible. As members of the Council are aware materials for houses have been very difficult to obtain, in view of the necessity of diversion to areas of unforeseen disaster.

We are constantly keeping under review the provision of the three essentials, piped water, adequate sanitation and electricity, which it is our ambition eventually to bring to every house possible in the Stone Rural District.

Some houses, by virtue of their position present an almost insoluble problem and it must be generally acknowledged that the problems of rural amenities are as variable as the areas themselves and particularly difficult in the respect of provision of water. The cost of supplying a pair of cottages may greatly exceed any recoverable expense. It is, however, a difficulty we must do our utmost to overcome.

In the last few years, we have had numerous complaints of wells which have been satisfactory in the period of living memory have now become dry, and a piped water supply has now become a vital necessity.

I think our figures for supplying water to our area would compare favourably with any Rural District Council, and 72% in face of the difficulties we have had to meet is very satisfactory. When the Sandon scheme is finally in operation this will remove a long standing feature of disquiet and will bring our percentage considerably higher.

We are well aware of the urgent importance of getting a good water supply to the farms if we are to have clean milk and we are in sympathy with any scheme which will help us to achieve this result.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature was the widespread incidence of foot and mouth disease. In the Stone Rural District we have some very fine and notable herds and it was a great loss to see some of these destroyed. You will find in the report a brief summary of the outbreak from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

I acknowledge with gratitude the excellent help given to me by the department of your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Yours faithfully,

C. GLYNNE OWEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

C. Glynne Owen, M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND MEAT INSPECTOR :

W. Hawkes, C.R.S.I. who is also Surveyor and Inspector under the Housing, Shops and Petroleum Acts.
Rodent Officer.

ASSISTANTS TO THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

B. K. Lovatt, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (Deputy Sanitary Inspector)

L. P. Poole, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (Additional Sanitary Inspector)

CLERK IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT :

E. J. Bevan

JUNIOR CLERK AND TRAINEE :

J. West

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area in Acres, 61,565.

Population (Registrar General Return) 16,470

Number of Inhabited Houses ... 4,198

Commercial Premises ... 177

Industrial Premises ... 25

Miscellaneous ... 104

Rateable Value £111,426

Penny Rate ... £422

Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population

Still Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population.

Year	Stone R.D.	Eng. & Wales	Year	Stone R.D.	Eng. & Wales
1950	13.7	15.8	1950	0.31	0.37
1951	12.1	15.5	1951	0.35	0.36
1952	16.01	15.3	1952	0.53	0.35

1951			1952				
Total Live Births	Live Births		Live Births		Total Live Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.			
	Total	112	121	Total		117	124
	Legit.	106	119	Legit.		112	123
	Illegit.	8	2	Illegit.		5	1
Total Still Births	Still Births		Still Births		Total Still Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.			
	Total	4	3	Total		5	5
	Legit.	4	3	Legit.		5	5
	Illegit.	0	0	Illegit.		0	0
Total Births	Deaths under 12 months		Deaths under 12 Months		Total Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.			
	Total	6	6	Total		1	4
	Legit.	6	6	Legit.		1	4
	Illegit.	0	0	Illegit.		0	0
Infant Death Rate under 12 months per 1000 live births					Infant Death Rate under 12 months per 1000 live births		
	Stone R.D.	51.5	Stone R.D.	20.8			
	Eng. & Wales	29.6	Eng. & Wales	27.6			

Actual Excess of Live Births over Deaths 241—150 = 91

Death Rate per 1,000 Population

Stone R.D.

Eng. & Wales

Year 1951

12.73

12.5

Year 1952

11.0

11.3

INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The following table shows the numbers of infectious and notifiable diseases sent in by Medical Practitioners during the year 1952

Disease	Ist Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total	1951
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	1	4	16
Whooping Cough ...	11	2	6	10	29	75
Measles ...	101	31	8	128	268	64
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	—	—	1	3	17
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio. Paralytic ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Polio. Non Paralytic	—	—	1	—	1	1
Dysentery ...	3	1	—	—	4	9
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Poisoning.

Total No. of Out-breaks.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of out-breaks of each.	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Analysis of causes of Deaths.	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other forms	0	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	0	0	0
Cancer (all sites)	12	17	29
Diabetes	1	0	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	6	15	21
Heart Diseases	24	26	50
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0	1
Diarrhoea under two years of age	0	1	1
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	0	0	0
Nephritis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	0	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0	0
Premature Birth	0	0	0
Birth Injuries, Malformation	0	0	0
Suicide	1	1	2
Road Accidents	1	1	2
Other violent causes	0	3	3
All other causes	8	7	15
Homicide and Operations of War	0	1	1

TOTALS	68	82	150
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Tuberculosis	1952		Total	1951		Total
	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.		M.	F.	
Number on Register	60	45	139	47	41	119
New Cases	13	4	20	9	1	15
Removed from Register	1	-	2	3	1	4

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE AREA.

Bye-laws made by the Council are now in force with regard to the following :-

New Buildings.	Common Lodging Houses.
New Streets.	Common Lands.
Water Supplies (Now administered by the Staffs. Potteries Water Board).	Dust Bins.
Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food for sale, and sale of Food in the open air.	

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

During the year 1952 the Council took no action under Section 47 of this Act in relation to aged and Chronic Sick Persons in need of care and attention.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The names of the Staff of the Public Health Dept. are set out in page 1. During the year no changes have taken place.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All examinations of bacteriological specimens and chemical Analysis are carried out at the Laboratories in Stafford.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES.

The total number of samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, is 113. Details are as follows :-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES :—	...	...	...	60
Satisfactory	...	...	...	23
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	37
CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER SUPPLIES :—	...	...	...	53
Satisfactory	...	...	...	32
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	23

Included in the above are samples taken from the Public Mains administered by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board.

DETAILS OF DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES TAKEN BY PARISHES.

Unfit Samples dealt with as follows :-

PARISH	No. of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination and for Chemical Analysis	Occupants advised to boil water	Well or reservoir cleaned out	Filtration Plant installed	Action taken to connect to Water Mains.	Mains extensions advised (occupiers also advised to boil water).	Farm cottages connected to satisfactory piped farm supply
Barlaston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chebsey	10	—	2	—	2	—	4
Eccleshall	49	2	—	—	19	2	—
Fulford	4	—	—	—	—	1*	—
Hilderstone	10	—	—	—	4	2	—
Milwich	9	2	2	—	2	—	—
Sandon	16	—	—	—	—	8	—
Standon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stone Rural	15	2	6	—	—	—	—
Swynnerton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Public well involved—a main extension has been advised for those properties not within a reasonable distance and a public standpipe from an existing main provided as a temporary measure.

WATER CONNECTIONS, 1952

The following table shows the number of properties connected to main water supplies during the year, as a result of action taken by the Council under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945.

Parish	Properties connected	Notices		Properties connected in default of owners
		Informal	Formal	
Eccleshall	15	2	13	7
Hilderstone	16	1	15	10
Swynnerton	1	1	—	—
Totals	32	4	28	17

The last column in the table indicates the number of dwellings where the Council arranged for the work required by statutory notice to be carried out, the Owners (or Agents) having failed to make the connections within the time limit given in the notice. In such cases the Local Authority may have the work carried out themselves and may recover the cost of the work involved up to a maximum of £20. In view of this statutory limit, fixed in 1936, and which has to be quoted on the formal notice, owners generally find it more economical to ignore the notice and wait for the Council to provide the connection. Details of the costs of the water connections made in default during the year are given below.

Parish	Total Connections in default	Total cost of the connections			Cost recoverable from Owners		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Eccleshall	7	180	2	10	123	1	5
Hilderstone	10	315	18	4	200	0	0
Totals	17	496	1	2	323	1	5

EASTERN AREAS SUPPLY SCHEME.

The Water Scheme for the Eastern Parishes, namely, Hilderstone, Milwich, Sandon and Fulford is still under review and with the exception of the villages of Hilderstone, Fulford and Cross Gate the remaining area has not a public water supply. The progress in providing this area with water is disappointingly slow. This however, has been caused by various difficulties and it is hoped that the majority of the area will get a supply in the not too distant future.

Incorporated in the Eastern Areas Scheme is the village of Moddershall which at the present time has generally, on the whole, an unsatisfactory water supply. The approval of a water main for this area is necessary, as the Council are unable to erect new Council Houses required in this area, until a pure and wholesome and sufficient supply of water is available within the village.

ECCLESHALL EXTENSION SCHEME.

The whole of this scheme which covers a very extensive area of the western and southern parts of the district is finally completed and efforts are being made to connect properties with an unwholesome supply of water, to the new water mains.

YARNFIELD WATER SUPPLY.

Difficulties here, have arisen regarding the scheme presented by the Staffs. Potteries Water Board. This scheme has been considered by the Ministry but no authorisation for approval of the project has been received. The village is still relying upon a stand pipe supply.

ASTON WATER SUPPLY.

This scheme has been under consideration for some considerable time and here again difficulties have arisen, due apparently to the inadequate pressures, but it is hoped that this scheme will be approved in the near future.

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSES SERVED WITH PUBLIC PIPED WATER SUPPLY BY PARISHES.

PARISH	1931	1941	1951	1952
Barlaston	88%	90%	96%	97%
Chebsey	Nil	50%	75%	75%
Eccleshall	Nil	25%	44%	48%
Fulford	80%	80%	88%	88%
Hilderstone	Nil	Nil	Nil	28%
Milwich	Nil	2%	11%	11%
Sandon	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Standon	35%	40%	48%	48%
Stone Rural	76%	80%	81%	81%
Swynnerton	87%	90%	95%	96%

When new water schemes now under consideration are sanctioned and completed, the percentage of properties which can have a public piped water supply made available to them in the parishes affected are shown as follows :-

Eccleshall	...	...	...	...	80%
Hilderstone	...	...	...	...	75%
Milwich	...	...	...	...	50%
Sandon	...	...	...	...	80%
Stone Rural	...	...	...	...	95%

TABLE SHOWING WATER SUPPLIES BY PARISHES.

Parish	No. of Houses	Staffs. P.W.B.	Private Supply	Standpipe Supply	Population Served.	
					Direct to Houses	Standpipe.
Barlaston	567	553	—	—	1932	—
Chebsey	136	103	—	—	360	—
Eccleshall	1,074	496	27	20	1728	61
Fulford	577	510	—	—	1788	—
Hilderstone	103	29	8	—	25*	—
					70	
Milwich	126	14	—	—	49	—
Sandon	158	—	133	—	465*	—
Standon	198	98	—	—	343	—
Stone Rural	588	525	8	—	30*	—
					1837	
Swynnerton	663	650	6	24	360	72
					22*	

* Private Water Supplies.

SEWERAGE.

BARLASTON PARISH.

On the whole this Parish is well served by a main drainage system and apart from a few outlying farms and cottages, all the dwelling houses have water closets.

CHEBSEY PARISH.

The small purification works at Norton Bridge which was approved by the Ministry has now been completed and progress is being made on the conversion of earth closets to water closets, and it is anticipated that this work will be completed during 1953.

ECCLESHALL PARISH.

With regard to the Township of Eccleshall which is served by main drainage scheme as referred to in my previous Annual Report the conditions existing both at the pumping station and the purification works, are unsatisfactory. Some improvements have been effected to these works and the Council have taken over the adjoining Ministry of Supply Works which has eased the load at the Eccleshall Works.

Consideration is being given to the replacement of the existing pumps.

The hamlet of Wetwood is served by a small sewage installation and with the exception of the post war Council Houses the remainder of this Parish is served by Septic tanks, Cesspools or Privies.

FULFORD PARISH.

Consideration is being given to the comprehensive scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the drainage of the Meir Heath District comprising Sandon Road, Grindley Lane, Hilderstone Road and Birkholme Drive, where numerous complaints have been received regarding nuisances from existing septic tanks and filter beds.

Good progress has been made by Contractors laying the main drainage system known as the Blythe Valley Scheme through the village of Blythe Bridge. When this scheme is in operation the whole of the drainage from this part of the Rural District will receive treatment at the Purification Works at Deadman's Green, near Checkley, Uttoxeter.

The Fulford and Saverley Green schemes are still under consideration.

SWYNNERTON PARISH.

An alternative scheme is being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for draining the properties in the Northwood Lane, Whitmore Road and Newcastle Road, Clayton. This Scheme is an alternative to gravitation of the sewage via the Trentham Estate Gardens and would be by lifting the sewage to the Trent Vale Pumping Station.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council, in spite of increased collections are continuing to operate only three refuse vehicles. An additional one is being used for the collection of night soil and this vehicle is still used as a stand by for refuse collection in the event of an emergency. The refuse collection is still a fortnightly one. The Council are at present operating 3 refuse tips.

During the year 40 informal notices and 24 formal notices were served for the provision of dust bins.

DUST BINS.

Informal Notices	...	...	40
Bins Provided	...	...	35
Formal Notices			
Sec. 75 P.H.A., 1936	...	...	24
Complied	...	...	15
Bins supplied in default		...	9
Appeals	...	...	Nil

PROGRESS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH CONVERSION OF EARTH CLOSETS TO WATER CLOSETS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ECCLESHALL.

	1st April, 1950	31st Dec., 1951	31st Dec., 1952
Percentage of Houses on W.C. - - -	55%	69%	84%
Percentage of Houses on Night Soil Collection	45%	31%	16%
Percentage of Houses which cannot connect to existing drainage system and will remain on Night Soil Collection. - - -	10%		

It will be observed from the above mentioned table that there only remains 6% of the total number of earth closets to be converted to water closets. These outstanding cases, it is hoped, will be eliminated during 1953.

It is interesting to note that during the year the cost of conversions was as follows :

COST OF CONVERSIONS.

EARTH AND PAN CLOSETS (30).

Total Value of Conversions—29 properties (one account still to be submitted by owner estimated to be about £45)	...	...	...	...	...	£	s.	d.
						1,244	7	2
Cost per house	...	...	...	...	...	42	18	2
Council's Contribution	...	...	...	...	...	622	3	7

DUCKETS. (Waste Water Closets) (8).

Total Value of Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	196	14	0
Cost per house	...	...	...	...	...	24	11	9
Council's Contribution	...	...	...	...	...	98	7	0

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

In accordance with the delegated powers agreement, with the Staffordshire County Council, the following Annual Report was submitted to that Council :

During the year 147 routine visits were carried out under the Act, and with the exception of most public houses, all premises have been inspected.

It should be noted that the majority of the shops are of the family type and only 21 shops are not occupied with dwelling accommodation. The latter shops are mainly in the Township of Eccleshall and include the catering establishments at Trentham Gardens. The following table analyses by principal businesses the total number of shops in the Stone Rural District.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESSES.

	No. of Shops				
General Provisions	34
Butchers	8
Fruit and Vegetables	2
Fish	1
Catering Establishments	15
Confectionery and Tobacco	5
Drapers	4
Garages and Cycle Shops, including Petrol Filling Stations	17
Hairdressers	2
Post Office Business	15
Public Houses	42
Shoe Repairs	2
Newsagents and Stationers	4
Household and Electrical Goods, including Decorators' Supplies	6
Chemists	1
					<hr/> 158 <hr/>

HOURS OF CLOSING.

(a) EARLY CLOSING DAYS.

The following table shows the number of shops (not being shops exempted) closing at 1 p.m. on the days shown.

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
5	6	38	9	1	25

A difficulty has been experienced in enforcing Section 1 (3) of the Act, namely the display of a notice specifying the weekly half day. The action in this connection has been mainly informal and verbal but positive action will be taken during 1953 to enforce this sub-section.

(b) GENERAL CLOSING HOURS.

The general closing hours applicable to the various shops appeared to be generally observed.

(c) SUNDAY TRADING.

The provisions of the Act relative to Sunday Trading are observed and there are no partial exemptions orders in force. There are no shops registered in connection with the observance by the occupiers of the Jewish Sabbath.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

(a) STATUTORY HALF-HOLIDAY, ETC.

As far as could be ascertained the provisions relating to Assistant's half holiday (i.e. not later than 1-30 p.m. on one week day per week) and mealtimes were observed.

(b) YOUNG PERSONS.

There were only 8 young persons e.g. under 18 years employed in those shops inspected. The hours of employment appeared to be observed and the statutory forms were displayed.

(c) SEATS FOR FEMALE ASSISTANTS.

This requirement is observed and where applicable Form K is exhibited.

(d) SANITARY AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

The arrangements for lighting, facilities for taking meals in shops, and washing facilities are complied with generally. During the year, a notice served late in 1951 requiring provision of washing facilities for both sexes was complied with. An informal notice requiring the provision of washing facilities in a shop constructed of temporary material is still outstanding, but action has been held in abeyance pending construction of a shop with dwelling accommodation in place of the existing structure.

Certificates of exemption are in force as follows :-

Provisions with respect of Washing Facilities ... 3

ENFORCEMENT—GENERAL.

A few changes in occupation have occurred during the year and in each case the new shopkeepers have been issued with a pamphlet setting out for their information the principal provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and the Shops Regulations.

VENTILATION, TEMPERATURE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

This Council is the authority for enforcement of the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act 1950 relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences as the "Sanitary Authority" within the meaning of the Act. These provisions are not the subject of delegated powers therefore.

Some contraventions exist in respect of ventilation and temperature at some shops but no action is possible since the occupiers do not employ assistants.

An informal notice served during 1951 requiring provision of sanitary conveniences for male employees was complied with during the year. There are seven certificates of exemption in force with respect to the provision of sanitary conveniences.

RAG FLOCK, ETC.

The Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951 came into force on the 1st November, 1951, and is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles.

One Factory used for activities in connection with upholstering has been registered for the use of filling materials specified in the Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

As reported in my previous annual reports all animals, the food of which is intended for human consumption, are slaughtered at the Ministry of Food Central Slaughterhouse at Stone. Meat Inspection, therefore, is carried out by the Stone Urban District Council.

However, during June, 1952, the Ministry of Food found it necessary to open the slaughterhouse owned by Mr. W. A. Perry, in Stafford Street, Eccleshall, for the purpose of slaughtering 74 pigs and 1 sheep which were in excess of the number that could be dealt with at the Stone Slaughterhouse. Two private pigs were slaughtered in the District during the year, under licence from the Ministry of Food, parts of which had been allocated to local Butchers. Each animal was inspected and the following table shows the result :

			Weight (lb.) Con- demned
No. Slaughtered and Notified	Sheep 1	Pigs 76	—
No. Inspected	1	76	—
All diseases except tuberculosis.			
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	1	137
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	6	23
Tuberculosis only.			
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	2	8

Meat has been inspected at Butchers' shops and it was found necessary to issue certificates in respect of the following quantities of meat which was found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the butchers concerned.

Beef. 146 lbs. (bruised or sour)
Offal. 174½ lbs. (fly blown or decomposed)

KNACKER'S YARDS.

There are still three Knacker's Yard Licences within the Rural District, two of which are in regular use. During the epidemic of Foot and Mouth Disease inspections were made of the Knacker's Yards and as a result of suggestions certain improvements have been carried out to these premises.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Nineteen men renewed licences to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 at the commencement of the year and these operated until the 31st December, 1952. One new licence was issued in November, 1952, to expire on the 31st December, 1953.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

The following amounts of foodstuffs other than butchers' meat were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the various owners.

CANNED FOOD	Number of Tins or Jars	Approx. Weight (lb.)
Fruit	89	116
Vegetables	4	4½
Meat	2	7½
Fish	208	63¾
Jam	1	2
Milk, Evaporated	16	16
Milk, Condensed	4	7½ pts. Equivalent
Fruit Puddings	2	2
Soups	2	1½
	<hr/> 328	<hr/> 213¼

Other Foods — Sultanas 2 lbs.

No action was found necessary under Section 10 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 in respect of seizure of unsound food.

MANUFACTURED FOOD.

During the year six butchers' premises were Registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 for the Preparation and Manufacture of sausage and pressed meat intended for sale for human consumption. The premises are kept in a satisfactory manner and in one case certain structural improvements have been requested by informal notice. The work was outstanding at the end of the year. These are the only premises Registerable under this Section.

ICE-CREAM.

During the year, 5 premises have been registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, making a total of 30 by the end of the year.

There is still only one factory within the district where ice-cream is manufactured for consumption in other districts, and regular inspections have been made of the premises. The plant is operating satisfactorily, but it was necessary to draw the manufacturer's attention to the necessity for retinning of bulk containers and moulds which was carried out. Delivery of recording thermometers for fitting to the ageing vats was still awaited at the end of the year.

SAMPLING. Samples of ice-cream were taken at regular intervals during the "season" covering the six months from April to September. The following table gives a summary of results of the bacteriological examination of the samples.

Ice-Cream	Grades				
	No. taken	1	2	3	4
Manufactured within the District					
From Factory	9	8	1	Nil	Nil
From Retailers	11	7	1	1	2
Manufactured outside the District (5 sources concerned)					
From Retailers	23	18	4	1	Nil
TOTAL	43	33	6	2	2

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. The Public Health Laboratory Service recommends that judgment should be based on a series of samples and that over a six-monthly period, 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

Both Grade 4 samples referred to in the table above were obtained from the bulk containers supplies to one retailer and were taken from different containers on different days, and following investigation and suggested improvements at the retailers premises and the withdrawal by the manufacturer of doubtful bulk containers for retinning, subsequent samples taken from the supply to this retailer fell within Grade 1.

Samples taken for chemical analysis were found to comply with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) (Amendment) Order, 1952.

During the year a number of mobile vans used for the retailing of ice-cream within the District have been inspected and were found to be satisfactorily operated.

FOOD PREMISES.

A total of 151 inspections have been carried out at 65 food premises (together with 5 of the public houses) during the year and every effort has been made to improve the standard of food hygiene in the District. Action to remedy contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as follows.

Informal	...	...	...	...	7
Formal		...	...	...	4
Outstanding informal Notices, 1951					6
Work required completed				...	12
In progress	...	...	...		1

The inspections have concentrated upon improving conditions at food premises other than public houses and a great improvement has been experienced.

A number of mobile delivery vans and one mobile canteen were inspected during the year and were found to be satisfactory. Contravention of the bye laws for handling, wrapping and delivery etc. of food was noted and remedied in one case.

It is proposed to carry out detailed inspections of the public houses during the ensuing year and take such action as may be necessary to ensure an adequate standard of hygiene.

The occupiers of the food premises have been circularised with suitable pamphlets issued by the Central Council for Health Education and have been found helpful.

BYE-LAWS FOR HANDLING, WRAPPING AND DELIVERY, ETC. OF FOOD.

No formal action has been necessary in enforcement of these bye-laws, but some occupiers of food premises have had their attention drawn to certain irregularities which have been remedied.

BAKEHOUSES.

Three Bakehouses (other than basement Bakehouses) are in operation within the district. Seven inspections have been made during the year and action has been taken in one case to remedy defects under Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

FISH AND CHIP SHOP.

One fish and chip shop is in operation and is maintained satisfactorily.

SALE OF MILK.

MILK PRODUCTION.

With effect from the 1st October, 1949 milk production at Dairy Farms has been under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

CLASSIFICATION OF DAIRY FARMS IN PARISHES.

Parish	Non-designated	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested
Barlaston	9	14	10
Chebsey	3	12	—
Eccleshall	38	61	15
Fulford	10	13	6
Hilderstone	7	15	2
Milwich	14	23	3
Sandon	13	19	6
Standon	1	8	3
Stone Rural	12	34	13
Swynnerton	12	11	8
Totals	119	210	66

This table records an increase of 29 farms producing Tuberculin Tested milk in the past twelve months.

DISTRIBUTORS AND DAIRIES.

The Council is the Registration Authority for dairymen other than Dairy Farmers (Distributors) and for dairies other than dairy farms ; i.e. non producer retailers and their premises. 16 dairymen have been registered as Distributors within the Stone Rural District as follows :

Operating from premises within the District ...	7
Operating from premises outside the District ...	9

2 premises are registered as Dairies, the remaining five distributors from premises in the Rural District either operate from farm dairies (shared with dairy farmer) which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries or obtain their milk in bottles from dairy farms and wholesale dairies.

In addition to the foregoing, some dairy farmers retail milk in the district and are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS.

The following table shows the number and type of licences issued to distributors and producer retailers authorising the use of Special Designations.

Dealers licences are issued to distributors whose premises are situated within the licensing authority's area and supplementary licences to distributor's from other areas subject to their holding dealer's licences from the appropriate licensing authority. Two producer retailers hold a dealer's licence in respect of milk retailed by them under Special Designations and not produced from their herds.

SPECIAL DESIGNATION	NUMBER OF DEALER'S LICENCES	NUMBER OF SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES
Tuberculin Tested	9	8
Accredited	1	1
Pasteurised	8	8
Sterilised	2	5

PASTEURISED milk which is retained at a temperature of either not less than 145° F. or more than 150° F. for at least 30 minutes or not less than 161° F. for at least 15 seconds and in both cases immediately cooled to a temperature of not more than 50° F. This process is held by some authorities to kill most organisms pathogenic to man, but the milk can be infected through careless handling after pasteurisation. After 1st October, 1954 pasteurised milk must be bottled on the premises on which it is pasteurised.

DEFINITION OF SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS.

TUBERCULIN TESTED milk is produced from herds in which every animal is subjected to tuberculin tests and examinations by a veterinary inspector at regular intervals. Reactors to the test and animals showing evidence of any disease likely to affect the milk injuriously must be segregated or removed from the herd which must be completely isolated from other cattle.

Such milk is considered free from tubercle bacilli but is liable to convey other bovine diseases pathogenic to man.

ACCREDITED milk is produced from herds in which every milch cow is submitted to examinations by veterinary inspectors at such times required by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Any animal showing evidence of disease likely to injuriously affect the milk is segregated or removed from the herd.

This designation will cease to be used after the 1st October, 1954.

Milk sold under this designation has been known on occasions to be infected with tubercle bacilli and other bovine diseases pathogenic to man.

STERILISED milk is milk filtered or clarified, homogenised and heated to and maintained at a temperature of not less than 212°F. such period to ensure that it complies with the turbidity test. The heating process normally takes place in bottles in which the milk is to be sold and is held to kill most pathogenic organisms and because in bottle treatment cannot be re-infected by subsequent handling prior to delivery to the consumer.

MILK SAMPLING. Routine samples of milk are taken by the Sampling Officers of the Staffordshire County Council who forward copies of the reports on the examination of the samples by the Public Health Laboratory to this Council. The following table has been compiled from the reports received in respect of samples taken during the year 1952.

Designation of Milk	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	No. of samples taken	Passed	Failed	No. of samples taken	Negative	Positive to :	
						Tuber- culosis	Brucella Abortus
Non-designated	75*	53	22	69	66	1§	2
Tuberculin Tested	30	24	6	26	25	—	1
Accredited	70	59	11	73	66	3	4
Pasteurised	43	38	5	2	2	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	218	174	44	170	159	4	7

* Non-designated milks are submitted to the methylene blue test which is statutory for designated raw milks.

§ Report received and action taken in 1953.

Samples are taken also by the Birmingham Public Health Department upon the arrival at dairies in Birmingham of milk supplied by wholesale producers farming in the Stone Rural District, but only notifications of samples positive to tuberculosis are received by this Authority through the County Health Department.

The County Health Department notifies the results of bacteriological examinations of raw milk to the Milk Regulations Department of the County Agricultural Executive Committee and officers of that Department visit the farmers whose milk fail the tests and give such remedial advice as may be found necessary. The results of pasteurised and sterilised milks are notified to the Authorities in which the milk is processed and their officers follow up any failures. In the event of failure to pass the statutory tests on milk bottled by retail distributors, officers of this department visit the dairyman concerned, but very little action under this heading has been necessary during the year under review since most distributors receive their milk in bottles from the farmers or processors. However, in the latter cases, there is the disadvantage of not knowing whether the particular milk which failed the test was satisfactory on arrival at the dairy.

Where samples are found to be positive to Tuberculosis the County Health Department notifies the Local Authorities concerned and the Divisional Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by telephone immediately and confirmation in writing is despatched the same day. An Officer of the Divisional Veterinary Department visits the farm concerned and inspects the herd. He issues an interim certificate stating the action taken by him and, if applicable, his recommendations regarding service of Notice under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. A final certificate follows when the herd can be certified non-tuberculous. In view of the lapse of six or seven weeks between the date a sample is taken for biological examination and the receipt of result, your Medical Officer of Health awaits the Veterinary Officer's Report before taking action under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, since it is possible that alterations may occur in the herd concerned during that time and that the Veterinary Officer may be able to eliminate the affected animals.

During the year, notifications were received showing that 5 samples taken within the District (2 taken in late 1951 and the 3 accredited milks referred to in the table above) and 4 samples taken in Birmingham were found to be positive to biological tests for tuberculosis. Two notices were served under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, requiring that heat treatment of the milk before sale to the public, and by the end of the year, one had been withdrawn when your Medical Officer of Health was satisfied that the herd concerned was non-tuberculous having received the Divisional Veterinary Officer's final certificate. The second notice was still in force at the end of the year. In the remaining seven cases such action was not necessary, either as a result of the Divisional Veterinary Officer's Report on the interim certificate or by reason of the milk not being retailed but sold wholesale to a pasteuriser.

A case of undulant fever was reported to this Department in September, 1952. Investigations showed that accredited milk supplied by a dairyman operating from outside the District was implicated. This milk was obtained by this dairyman from two producers in this District and milk samples taken from these herds gave positive results to *Brucella Abortus*. Notices under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, were served, and as a result of negotiations between Stone Urban District Council and this Authority on the one part and the producers and dairyman concerned, the Milk Marketing Board and a Licensed Pasteuriser on the other, arrangements were made for the permanent pasteurisation of the milk from the farms and for the dairyman to obtain his supplies direct from the Pasteuriser.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

During the past year 73 Petroleum Licences were issued. These Licences represent a total capacity of 63,020 gallons.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

1. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	32
2. By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	Nil
3. By Private Development	...	...	...	19

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 532. The distribution of new houses erected and under construction during 1952 by parishes is tabulated below.

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Construction	Completed	Under Construction
Barlaston	—	—	—	3
Chebsey	—	—	1	—
Eccleshall	4	—	7	2
Fulford	6	—	4	4
Hilderstone	—	12	—	—
Milwich	—	—	—	—
Sandon	—	—	—	—
Standon	6	8	—	—
Stone Rural	8	12	2	5
Swynnerton	8	—	5	3

It will be seen from the above figures that the Council erected 32 houses during the year with a further 32 under construction.

Name of Local Authority	Estimated Population	Rateable Value	Council Houses Erected Since Cessation of Hostilities	Council Houses Under Construction	Total	No. of Houses Erected or in Course of Erection per 1,000 Population
Stone R.D.C. ...	16,470	£111,426	434	32	466	28.8
Stone U.D.C. ...	8,318	£44,918	192	54	246	29.5
Cheadle R.D.C. ...	32,810	£115,060	648	132	780	23.7
Cannock R.D.C. ...	24,400	£110,464	444	192	636	26.0
Leek R.D.C. ...	16,820	£62,174	62	30	122	7.3
Leek U.D.C. ...	18,880	£107,853	308	36	344	18.2
Lichfield R.D.C. ...	41,970	£194,628	915	134	1049	22.3
Newcastle R.D.C. ...	17,180	£63,697	380	126	506	29.4
Seisdon R.D.C. ...	22,430	£121,087	393	191	584	26.0
Stafford R.D.C. ...	19,430	£87,620	192	50	242	12.5
Tutbury R.D.C. ...	14,820	£88,201	400	76	476	32.1
Uttoxeter R.D.C. ...	11,170	£44,595	177	35	212	18.9
Uttoxeter U.D.C. ...	7,400	£39,648	206	12	218	29.4

N.B.—These figures are based on the Returns issued by the Registrar General and the Ministry of Health.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR 1952.

1. (a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	96
(b)	No. of Inspections made for the purpose	216
2. (a)	No. of dwelling houses included under the sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded	79
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	150
3.	No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	20
4.	No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	30
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	25

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice :-	
By Owners	Nil
By the Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	56
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :-	
By Owners	41
By the Local Authorities after default of Owners	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by L.A.	7	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	25	1	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. . .	44	Nil	Nil
		No. of Defects.	
		Found	Remedied
Defects found in Factories. Want of cleanliness		3	3
Sanitary Conveniences. Unsuitable or defective		2	2

One outworker was employed within the Stone Rural District during the year, the premises being satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL.

As stated in my previous report the Council employ a full time Rodent Operative and I give below figures of work carried out during 1952 as submitted in a return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	LOCAL AUTHORITY	DWELLING HOUSES	BUSINESS PREMISES	TOTAL
1. No. of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1952 as a result of (a) notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) (b) 6	20 86	10 24	30 116
2. No. of properties (under 1) found to be infested with rats	Major 1 Minor 4	3 86	— 20	4 110
No. of infested properties treated by the L.A.	5	45	10	60

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK.

In April, 1952, foot-and-mouth disease made its appearance in North Staffordshire at the same time as outbreaks of disease occurred in South Cheshire and Shropshire. Stock purchased at Market Drayton Auction, associated with an outbreak on a Cheshire Farm, developed foot-and-mouth-disease on a farm in the Croxton (Eccleshall) area. It was thought that heavily infected milk passed through dairies at Knighton and Fole (Uttoxeter) and as a result foot-and-mouth disease, on an extensive scale, occurred in the Tean—Fole—Checkley area of Uttoxeter. The disease made its appearance on isolated farms at Rough Close, Leek and Hulme and also in the Hilderstone district.

As a result of one case of unreported disease in the Hilderstone area several outbreaks occurred. Outbreaks occurred in this area and the Stone district up to the end of June, 1952.

So far as Staffordshire was concerned the spread of the disease occupied a period of approximately eight weeks and during this period there were 56 outbreaks in the County, 20 or more of which occurred in the vicinity of Stone itself. During this period a special sub-Centre was set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at the A.E.C. Office, Fieldhouse, Stone.

TABLE SHOWING POPULATION AND MEAN AREA PER PERSON IN ACRES

Rural District	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Area in Acres.	Mean area per person in acres.
	Census 1931 of areas as constituted after changes in boundary.	Estimated 1952		
Cannock	20,792	24,400	56,608	2.3
Cheadle	28,102	32,810	60,259	1.8
Leek	14,435	16,820	72,619	4.3
Lichfield	31,551	41,970	83,906	1.9
Newcastle	16,872	17,180	40,015	2.3
Seisdon	13,850	22,430	41,990	1.8
Stafford	12,895	19,430	80,249	4.1
Stone	11,945	16,470	61,565	3.7
Uttoxeter	10,356	11,170	56,624	5.0
Tutbury	8,906	14,820	31,708	2.1
Totals and Averages	169,704	217,500	585,543	2.6

